

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1-24 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 1-24 have been cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Claims 25-36 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 25-36 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Rejections of Claims

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5-14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,856,986 to Sobey (hereinafter "Sobey"). Furthermore, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-4, 15 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobey in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,446,234 to Cox et al.

In view of the cancellation of Claims 1-24, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-24 is now moot.

II. New Claims

Applicants have added new Claims 25-36. Applicants submit that Claims 25-36 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

III. Amendments to Specification

Applicants have amended certain paragraphs of the Specification to correct obvious errors. No new matter has been added.

IV. Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	12	Minus	24	= 0	x \$50 =	\$ 0.00
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	2	Minus	3	= 0	x \$200 =	\$ 0.00

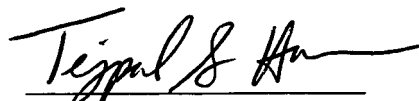
As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicants previously paid claim fees for twenty-four (24) total claims and for three (3) independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no additional claims fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

V. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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